GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3248
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2007
POLLUTION ON SEA COASTS IN INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT
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Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the huge quantities of plastic wastes are flowing into the sea from various parts of the country thereby endangering the lives of precious creatures in water;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study to find out the level of pollution of various sea coasts in Indian sub-continent;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has carried out an ambitious plan to check and to clean the sea shores in the country;

(f) if so the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a & b) It has been estimated that the plastic waste form 5 to 6% of the total waste and the present estimated municipal solid waste generation is 0.12 million tones per day. Exclusively, the quantification of plastics disposed into the coastal water is fairly meager when compared to other developed countries. As per recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules 1999 (as amended in 2003) restrictions have been imposed on manufacture of plastic bags and containers basically to avoid any hazard to the environment including lives of precious creatures in water. Restrictions imposed relates to manufacturing specifications such as size and thickness of carry bags. Further, the purpose of such restrictions is to check littering /disposal of plastic bags. Disposal /littering of plastic waste into the sea as well as on sea shores are mainly because of the tourists. The impact of plastics on marine lives has not been reported so far for Indian waters.

(c & d) Since 1990, the Government through Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has been implementing a National coordinated research programme on 'Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System (COMAPS)" to assess the health of water quality along the east and west coasts of India including Islands. At present there are 18 National/State Laboratories including Universities participating in this programme for systematic collection of data on 25 parameters at 76 transects upto 10 km offshore. The sea water beyond 2 km from the shore, along coastal municipal / industrial locations except off Mumbai found to be clean and conform to qualities of clean sea water.

(e & f) For the purpose of conserving and protecting the coastal environment the Government has issued the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991. This Notification prohibits discharge of untreated effluents and disposal of municipal solid waste in the CRZ area.

(g) Doesn't arise.